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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ethiopia/Great Britain

DATE DISTR. 12 April 1949

SUBJECT Anglo-Ethiopian Discussions Regarding the British Military Mission

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Major General Douglas J.T. Turnbull, Commanding Officer of the British Military Mission to Ethiopia (BME), will open discussions with Emperor Haile Selassie and the Ethiopian Minister of War before 20 April 1949, with regard to the Ethiopian Army and the future of the BME.
2. According to source, General Turnbull will insist that the Ethiopian Army be reduced to 10,000 men;\* that sufficient funds for training the Army be supplied by the Ethiopian Government; and that the Government extend greater cooperation to the Mission. General Turnbull feels that under existing conditions it is impossible for the Mission to train the Ethiopian Army effectively and that the present state of the Army is a discredit to the British Army and its methods.
3. The present cost of maintaining the BME is approximately £40,000 per month. According to source, General Turnbull feels that this money is being wasted, since no satisfactory results have been achieved by the Mission. General Turnbull has stated that, if the Ethiopian Government does not agree to the terms enumerated in paragraph 2 above, the Mission will be withdrawn in 1949. Source states that General Turnbull was ordered by the GOC, MEIF, who was in Addis Ababa on 1 April 1949, to follow this course and improve the situation, or to withdraw the Mission.

25X1A2g

25X1A6a

\* Comment. [REDACTED] stated that, on the occasion of his visit to Ethiopia in December 1947, Field Marshal Montgomery insisted that the Ethiopian Army be reduced to 10,000 men as a condition for the supply of arms and material by Great Britain.

BY CABLE

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